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SECURITY INFORMATION

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

OFFICE OF NATIONAL ESTIMATES

DOCUMENT NO. 2

NO CHANGE IN CLASS. ☐

☐ DECLASSIFIED

CLASS. CHANGED TO: TS S (C)

NEXT REVIEW DATE: 2010

AUTH: HR 70-2

1 July 1952

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STAFF MEMORANDUM NO. 248

SUBJECT: Trip to Southeast Asia for Far East Staff Member

1. I would like to recommend that a member of the Far east Staff (possibly with a Board Member) make a trip to Southeast Asia at an early date. This trip would be approximately eight weeks duration.

2. I believe that such a trip would prove extremely valuable to O/NE and CIA for the following reasons:

- a. Although all members of the Far East Staff have spent some time in China, Japan and Korea, the staff has had little actual experience in countries of Southeast Asia. While a trip of the type envisioned would not provide significant area experience, as such, it is believed that, if properly organized, it would give a member of the staff an opportunity to talk to US officials and key local personages and to acquire some direct familiarity with the area.
- b. The situation in Southeast Asia appears to be undergoing important changes from the point of view of US security interests. There is evidence of an improved security situation in the Philippines and Burma and a deteriorating situation in Thailand; new governments have been established in Indonesia, Indochina, and Burma, and a new administration has been set up in Malaya. There are several NIE's dealing with Southeast Asia underway or planned (e.g. NIE-47, 35/2, and a new estimate due on the Burma situation). First hand observation of these new developments would be extremely valuable both from the point of view of working on these estimates and of analyzing the situation on a continuing basis.

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- c. Reporting from these areas, although varying from excellent to fair in quality, is not sufficiently comprehensive to substitute for periodic, on-the-spot, and intensive interviews and observations.
  - d. The foreseeable workload for the next two or three months in the Far East Staff appears to be manageable, even considering the change-over in the Staff Chief and an eight week absence of a staff member.
3. A suggested itinerary is attached.

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SUGGESTED ITINERARY

(Dates are obviously approximate)

Lv. Los Angeles 11 August

Ar. Manila 14 August

Lv. Manila 19 August

See: M.A.  
Embassy Personnel  
[REDACTED] 25X1A  
Magsaysay (can be arranged)

Questions: Huks  
Philippine politics  
Treaty with Chi. Nats.  
Treaty with Japan  
Pacific Pact

Ar. Hong Kong 19 Aug.

(Macau)

Lv. Hong Kong 24 Aug.

See: N.A.  
Consul General  
[REDACTED] 25X1A  
[REDACTED] 25X1X7

Questions: Chi. Com. Caps. and  
intentions, S.E.A.  
Hong Kong and Trade  
Changing [REDACTED] attitudes 25X1X7  
toward Chi. Com. and  
Chi. Nats.  
Expected longevity for  
Macau and Hong Kong

Ar. Hanoi 24 Aug.

Saigon-Pnompenh

Lv. Saigon 1 Sept.

See: M.A.'s  
MAAG Personnel  
[REDACTED] 25X1A  
(If possible, French and  
Vietnamese officials)

Questions: All for 35/2  
Soviet vs. Chi. Com.  
activity and influence  
in Indochina  
U.S. programs, mil., econ.,  
covert  
Cambodia outlook

Ar. Djakarta  
Lv. Djakarta

2 Sept.  
6 Sept.

See:

M.A.

25X1A

(If possible, Dutch Emb.  
officials, Indonesian  
officials)

Questions: New Indonesian govt.  
MSA, TCA, and attitudes  
toward USA  
Commie activity and influ-  
ence in insurrectionary  
activities  
Probable Foreign Relations;  
outlook for cont'd. neutralism  
US programs

Ar. Singapore-  
Kuala Lumpur  
Lv. Kuala Lumpur

7 Sept.  
13 Sept.

See:

M.A.'s  
Embassy officials

25X1A

25X1X7

if possible  
Native officials, if possible  
Business & Plantation offs.

Questions: Outlook for Templer's program  
Com. Caps. and intentions  
Anti-bandit campaign  
New political parties  
Soviet activity and influence  
Attitudes toward Com. China

Ar. Bangkok  
Lopburi  
Lv. Bangkok

14 Sept.  
20 Sept.

See:

M.A.

25X1A

25X1A

Phao and Sarit, if possible  
MAAG officials

Questions: Internal Thai scene  
Outlook for Thai orientation  
L1 M1  
Soviet influence and activities  
Chi. Com. influence  
US programs--mil., econ., covert  
Chi. Com. caps. & intentions

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Ar. Rangoon-  
Mandalay  
Lv. Rangoon

20 Sept.

27 Sept.

See:

25X1X7

25X1A

M.A.

Embassy officials

██████ officials, if poss.

Burmese officials, if poss.

Karen officials, if poss.

Questions: Burma political scene  
Burma changing orientation?  
Karens  
KMF  
US programs--mil., econ.,  
covert  
Chi. Com. - Soviet influence  
and activities  
Outlook for Com. insurgents  
and united front against  
government  
Chi. Com. Caps. & intentions  
Influence of India

Ar. Washington

3 Oct.

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